PRESCRIBED GRAZING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 528A

PRACTICE NAME

Prescribed grazing is the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals, managed with the intent to achieve a specific objective.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice may be applied on all lands where grazing and/or browsing animals are managed. Removal of herbage by the grazing animals is in accordance with production limitations, plant sensitivities and management goals. Frequency of defoliations and season of grazing is based on the rate of growth and physiological condition of the plants. Duration and intensity of grazing is based on desired plant health and expected productivity of the forage species to meet management objectives. In all cases enough vegetation is left to prevent accelerated soil erosion.

Application of this practice will manipulate the intensity, frequency, duration, and season of grazing to:

1. Improve water infiltration
2. maintain or improve riparian and upland area vegetation
3. Protect stream banks from erosion
4. Manage for deposition of fecal material way from water bodies
5. Promote ecological and economically stable plant communities which meet landowner objectives

A prescribed grazing schedule will be prepared for all fields and pastures and recorded in a manner that is readily understood and useable by the decision maker. The grazing schedule should include the following information:

1. Expected forage quality and quantity for all lands providing forage.
2. Numbers and kinds of animals utilizing available forage on the unit.
3. Inventory of all sources of forage and supplemental feed including documentation of surpluses and deficiencies.
4. A planned grazing schedule for livestock showing periods of grazing, rest, and other activities for all fields and pastures included in the grazing plan.
5. A contingency plan that details potential climatic problems and a guide for adjusting to insure proper management of forage resources.

Additional information including practice specifications are available in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

The following pages contain the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECT WORKSHEET

NOTE: *recorded in Microsoft word 6.0 - use tabs to change cells/fields*

STATE	Iowa	FIELD OFFICE		DATE	12/5/96

PRACTICE: 528A Prescribed Grazing	NOTES:
RESOURCE: SOIL **RESOURCE CONCERN: EROSION**	**Help Message: Click on form field for choice lists. Tab key to move around. "N/A" is the default.**

RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
SHEET AND RILL	significant reduction in sheet and rill erosion
WIND	significant reduction in wind erosion
EPHEMERAL GULLY	moderate reduction in ephemeral gully erosion
CLASSIC GULLY	slight reduction in classic gully erosion
STREAMBANK	moderate reduction in streambank erosion
IRRIGATION INDUCED	N/A
SOIL MASS MOVEMENT	slight reduction in mass movement of soil
ROADBANK/CONSTRUCTION	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOIL CONDITION**	
SOIL TILTH	moderate improvement in tilth
SOIL COMPACTION	moderate reduction in soil compaction
SOIL CONTAMINATION	
• SALTS	slight reduction in soil salinity
• ORGANICS	slight decrease in organic contaminates
• FERTILIZERS	slight reduction in contamination from fertilizer
• PESTICIDES	slight reduction in pesticide contam./soil
• OTHER	
DEPOSITION/DAMAGE	
• ONSITE	significant reduction/onsite deposition damage
• OFFSITE	significant decrease/offsite deposition damage
DEPOSITION/SAFETY	
• ONSITE	significantly improve onsite safety/deposition
• OFFSITE	sign. improve offsite safety hazard/deposition
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **WATER** RESOURCE CONCERN: **WATER QUANTITY**	
SEEPS	insignificant
RUNOFF/FLOODING	moder. decrease in runoff/flooding
EXCESS SUBSURFACE WATER	slight reduction in excess subsurface water
INADEQUATE OUTLETS	moderate improvement in H20 outlet concern
WATER MGT. IRRIGATION	
• SURFACE	insignificant
• SPRINKLER	insignificant
WATER MGT. NON-IRRIGATED	moderate improvement in moisture use
RESTRICTED FLOW CAPACITY (drainage)	
• ONSITE	moderate improvement in surface drainage
• OFFSITE	moderate improvement in surface drainage
RESTRICTED STORAGE	moderate reduction in sedimentation of H20 stroage
OTHER	

RESOURCE: **WATER** RESOURCE CONCERN**: WATER QUALITY**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	insignificant
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	insignificant
• SALINITY	insignificant
• HEAVY METALS	insignificant
• PATHOGENS	insignificant
• OTHER	
SURFACE WATER CONTAMINANTS	
• PESTICIDES	moderate reduction in SWater contam./pesticides
• NUTRIENTS AND ORGANICS	moderate reduction in SWater contam./nutri.,organ.
• SUSPENDED SEDIMENTS	sign. reduction in SWater contam./susp. sedi.
• LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN	sign. reduction in SWater contam./low oxygen
• SALINITY	insignificant
• HEAVY METALS	insignificant
• WATER TEMPERATURE	sign. reduction in SWater contam./H20 temp
• PATHOGENS	slight decrease in SWater contam./pathegens
AQUATIC HABITAT SUITABILITY	N/A
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **AIR** RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR QUALITY**	
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT AND SMOKE PARTICLES	
• ONSITE SAFETY	moder. decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safety
• OFFSITE SAFETY	moder. decrease in airborn sed.&smoke part./safe
• ONSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	moder. decrease in struct.problems/dust and smoke
• OFFSITE STRUCT. PROBLEMS	moder. decrease in structural problems/dust&smoke
• ONSITE HEALTH	moder. decrease in onsite health prob./dust&smoke
• OFFSITE HEALTH	mod. improvement in offsite health
AIRBORNE SEDIMENT CAUSING CONVEYANCE PROBLEMS	moder. decrease in airborn sediment/convey. prob.
AIRBORNE CHEMICAL DRIFT	slight decrease in airborn chem. drift
AIRBORNE ODORS	moder. decrease in airborn odors
FUNGI, MOLDS, AND POLLEN	insignificant
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **AIR CONDITION**	
AIR TEMPERATURE	insignficant
AIR MOVEMENT (windbreak effect)	insignificant
HUMIDITY	insignificant
OTHER	

RESOURCE: **PLANT** RESOURCE CONCERN: **SUITABILITY**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
SITE ADAPTATION	N/A
PLANT USE	slight improvement in plant suit. for intended use
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **CONDITION**	
PRODUCTIVITY	sign. improvement in plant cond./ productivity
HEALTH, VIGOR, SURVIVAL	sign. improvement in plant health,vigor, survival
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT**	
ESTAB., GROWTH, HARVEST	sign. improvement in plant estab.,growth,harvest
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	moder. improvement in plant nutrient management
PESTS	moder. improvement in plant pest management
THREAT/ENDANGERED PLANTS	situational
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **ANIMAL** RESOURCE CONCERN: **HABITAT**	
FOOD	moder. improvement in animal habitat/food supply
COVER/SHELTER	moder. improvement in animal habitat/cover,shelter
WATER (QUANTITY & QUALITY)	insignificant
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **MANAGEMENT**	
POPULATION BALANCE	sign. improvement in animal mgt./pop. balance
THREAT/ENDANGERED ANIMALS	situational
HEALTH	sign. improvement in animal mgt./ health
OTHER	
RESOURCE: **HUMAN** RESOURCE CONCERNS**: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS**	
PLAN / COST EFFECTIVENESS	significantly cost effective
CLIENT FINANCIAL CONDITION	significantly cost effective
MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS	N/A
AVAILABLE LABOR	insignificant
AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT	insignificant

RESOURCE: **HUMAN** RESOURCE CONCERN: **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**	
RESOURCE INDICATORS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY	situational concerning public health and safety
PRIVATE/PUBLIC VALUES	situational regarding private/public values
CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS	situational regarding client characteristics
RISK TOLERANCE	situational regarding risk
TENURE	situational regarding tenure
OTHER	
RESOURCE CONCERN: **CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS**	
ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	situational regarding cultural resources
SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES	situational regarding cultural resources
MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE CULTURAL RES. IMPACTS	situational regarding cultural resources
OTHER	